Mr. William Raspberry
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Mr. Raspberry,

You may not remember it but Paul Valentine introduced us years ago. I write to thank you for your today's column and perhaps add to your knowledge of what seems likely to be an ongoing controversy. I've not read the Abernathy book and probably won't buy it but I did catch his joint appearance on part of today's Phil Donahue show, with Ben Hooks and others. It appears that there are other factual errors in the Abernathy account of Dr. King's last night. Please also excuse my sending you a copy of the letter I wrote Mrs. Gilliam yesterday but I'm not well and am limited in how much I can do. I hope she won't mind and I'm sending her a copy of this and its enclosures so she'll know.

I've made extensive use of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain records relating to the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. In the King lawsuit, which had not yet reached its end although filed in 1975 (the remaining issue being only counsel fees) I got what the FBI refers to as its Murkin file. It is these records I refer to in the letter to Mrs. Gilliam in which I express doubts about Dr. Abernathy's accuracy about that last night. The copy of the rather poor carbon is a page from innumerable appeals that, at the request of the judge in that case, I made as informative as I could to the then appeals officer, Quin Shea. This one was never acted on. His hands were pretty much tied and they eventually eased him out.

To the best of my knowledge it has never been published that the man who did that mailing of the letter intended to get Dr. King to kill himself was a practising lawyer in Washington, Lish Whitson. The page that identifies him is from the so-called OPR internal investigation of how the FBI treated Dr. King. I wrote the identification of "Murphy Report (CRD) 3/31/76)" on the bottom to identify it for archival purposes. On today's Donahue Show one of the panel said that Dr. Abernathy said the tape was made via a mike under Dr. King's bed at the Willard Hotel. In fact it was a composite made by the FBI lab. Whitson flew to Tampa, where he mailed them, the tape and the letter.

I also enclose the letter as it was disclosed to me by the FBI. The expurgations are the FBI's.

In indicating to Mrs. Gilliam what I have and its availability I forgot to tell her what I have that to a degree substitutes for an index. The FBI used to call them "abstracts." They made two copies, 3x5, one filed chronologically and one by serial number of the record. They were made for headquarters copies of records only but to a fair degree can be used to locate the reports relating to Dr. King's activities the night before he was killed.

I share your disgust and disappointment and thank you again for this column.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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